of wood and nearby vegetation. The flies in this genus are characterized by their small size and by their very broad frons. Most are covered with gray or silver pollen on the thorax and abdomen. This new species will be described elsewhere. One individual was observed to have a small mite lodged on its proboscis, but the mite dropped off when the specimen was captured. The weather was somewhat overcast, and each time a cloud passed the asilids ceased their activity. When the sun again appeared, short foraging flights were resumed, each initiated from a small piece of wood. — L. G. BEZARK, SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERRSITY.

Hugh Leech reported on the apparent resistance of some tenebrionid beetles, collected near Angwin, California, to the effects of an otherwise effective cyanide killing jar. The prolonged resistance to death was attributed to lowered body metabolism, since the beetles were found hibernating in a rotting log. Some of the beetles remained alive in the cyanide jar up to 18 days.

The main speaker of the evening was **Dr. Jerry A. Powell,** Department of Parasitology and Entomology, University of California, Berkeley. This illustrated talk was entitled, "Prolonged diapause in Yucca Moths."

Refreshments were served in the Entomology Rooms following the meeting. — F. Ennik, Secretary.

THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIXTH MEETING

The 376th meeting was held 17 November 1976 in the Morrison Auditorium of the California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, President Andrews presiding, with 26 members and 13 guests present.

The minutes of the meeting held 19 November 1976 were summarized.

The following persons were elected to membership. Family membership: Stephanie Ferguson and Alice Edwards. Student membership: Frank G. Zalom. Regular membership: Robert J. Lyon, Robert Oetting, Bruce W. Hagen and Barbara Henry.

On behalf of the Auditing Committee, composed of Edward S. Ross and H. Vannoy Davis, Dr. Arnaud summarized the financial statement of the Society. Income is derived from dues and subscriptions, page charges, sales of Memoirs and back issues of journals, saving accounts interest, and dividends from stocks. The financial statement is published here in order for all members to know the financial condition of the Society.

Dr. Arnaud stated that the treasurer's office is indebted to Mrs. V. Hawley, former Office Manager of the Academy, for her dedicated attention to the Society's billings and accounts, now on a volunteer basis, and to Mrs. Lynn Chivers for similar work, to Mrs. Gail Freihofer, Entomology Secretary, for her attention to many letters and mailings of Society publications, and to Mr. H. Vannoy Davis, member of the firm of J. K. Lasser and Company (Certified Public Accountants), not only for his review of the Treasurer's records, but also for the completion of our Federal and State Income Tax Forms.

Although not announced, President Andrews appointed R. E. Somerby and R. M. Bohart to the Publication Committee for 1977 through 1979, to replace retiring members J. G. Edwards and C. B. Philip.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, composed of T. N. Seeno, E. I. Schlinger, and K. S. Corwin, Ms. Corwin presented the 1977 slate of candidates for office in the Society: President: Ronald E. Stecker; President-elect: Charles Daily; Secretary: Larry Bezark; Treasurer: Paul H. Arnaud, Jr. There were no nominations from the floor. The candidates were elected to office in the Society for 1977 by unanimous vote.

DIURNAL FLIGHT ACTIVITY OF *AUTOGRAPHA CALIFORNICA* (SPEYER) (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE) IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA, AUTUMN, 1976. — The Alfalfa Looper, *Autographa californica* (Speyer) is one of the commoner Plusiinae found in California. Essig (1926, Insects of Western North America, p. 687) comments that it "appears in the spring and throughout the summer, and visits flowers at dusk and the early part of the night." Eichlin (1975, Occasional Papers in Entomology, State of California, Department of Food and Agriculture, no. 21, p. 22) reports that the species may be found flying somewhere in the State [California] all year round." In the fall of 1976, both authors of this note have found it to be conspicuously present in their own gardens — in South San

Francisco and San Leandro — as well as on sand dunes at Pacific Grove. Some days and evenings in October and early November during this drought period have been especially warm and mild, and this may in part account for its flight activity and our observations of it.

Davies at San Leandro found adults of *A. californica* abundant at the end of October and in early November during mid-day (in bright sunshine) to dusk visiting at the blossoms of two orange trees in his back yard. A dozen could be observed at one time. They would fly high — at a height of about 5 meters — from a westerly direction. During this same period, Arnaud in South San Francisco observed this species flying at dusk in his small front garden, where up to half a dozen at one time were visiting the blossoms of the introduced garden ornamental — *Hebe* X *franciscana* (Eastw.) Souster (family Scrophulariaceae; determined by Dr. Elizabeth McClintock). Four specimens were collected — one on November 3rd and three on November 5th as voucher specimens.

On a joint collecting trip to Pacific Grove on November 7th, we found *A. californica* flying abundantly over the sand dunes along the Asilomar State Beach. Between 1300 and 1500 hours on a sunny, warm, almost windless day, we observed it actively visiting plants in bloom. These included the purple flowered Seaside Daisy, *Erigeron glaucus* (Ker.) and a yellow flowered *Lotus* sp. It preferred the *Lotus.* The projected Kodachrome slides show it at these flowers. In contrast, *Pieris protodice* Boisduval and Le Conte was common in the same areas and preferred the flowers of the *Erigeron.* — P. H. ARNAUD, JR. and T. W. DAVIES, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA 94118.*

BUTTERFLIES AT MUD PUDDLE SEGREGATE INTO TAXONOMIC GROUPS. — Kodachrome slides showing butterflies that aggregated by species (9 *Papilio cresphontes,* 5 *Achylodes thraso,* and 3 *Leptotes marinus),* subfamily (Pyrginae: 12 *Pyrgus* and *Heliopetes* of 3 species) and family (Pieridae: 8 *Phoebis* and *Eurema* of a species) within $2m^2$ around a puddle on a muddy road were exhibited. The photos were taken near Villagran, Tamaulipas, Mexico, in September 1976, between 1200 and 1230 C.S.T. During that time, the butterflies were dispersed many times by human and domestic animal traffic, each time returning to form the same discrete groupings, usually at the same spots. Individuals of *Microtia elva* (Nymphalidae) were scattered, in part intermingled with one or more of the other groups. One white *Eurema daira* associated itself with the white pyrgines rather than with the yellow pierids. — J. A. POWELL, *University of California, Berkeley.*

The main speaker of the evening was **Dr. Fred G. Andrews,** Systematic Entomologist, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento. His Presidential address was entitled, "Coleoptera of western sand dunes, both threatened entities."

Refreshments were served in the Entomology Rooms following the meeting. — F. Ennik, Secretary.